Contact: Sandy Gutierrez Date: December 30, 2008 Release No: 08-153

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## SAPD OFFERS FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The San Antonio Police Department is offering **FREE** training for F.A.C.T. (Family Assistance Crisis Team) volunteers that is scheduled for:

January 24<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

and

February 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**ALL THREE SESSIONS MUST BE ATTENDED** and will be held at police headquarters, 214 W. Nueva.

The training helps prepare the volunteer to understand the dynamics of partner abuse and the role of active listening skills as well as becoming familiar with community referrals and safety planning.

Domestic violence and its devastating consequences take a toll on the entire community. From children who are harmed watching and hearing the fighting between mom and dad and neighborhoods disrupted by the violence to officers being shot at trying to assist someone, domestic violence affects everyone. Volunteers help make a difference one life at a time. Joining the F.A.C.T. team is a way to help those living with violence in their relationships.

Volunteers assist victims of family violence by providing information about their rights, available community resources, the affects of violence in the home on children, and the need to have a safety plan. Volunteers can choose to work one Friday or Saturday night a month, from 7pm-2am at one of the six police substations.

Volunteers who prefer daytime hours can choose to work at least 8 hours a month at the Family Justice Center which is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Volunteers will assist people in a variety of ways as they come to the Center seeking services.

For more information or to apply, call 207-2305 or email Ivie.Tovar@sanantonio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE